

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 07501 01 OF 02 031736Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 IO-13 TRSE-00 /089 W  
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R 031715Z JUL 78  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5191  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
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AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
USINT HAVANA  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 07501

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11651: XGDS-1  
TAGS: CUL, PINT, SP, CU  
SUBJECT: SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN HAVANA WORLD YOUTH  
FESTIVAL

REF: MADRID 3804 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THE CULTURE MINISTRY'S YOUTH AFFAIRS OFFICE  
WILL RECOMMEND THAT THE GOS FUND THE PARTICIPATION OF  
ABOUT 150 YOUNG SPANIARDS IN THE HAVANA FESTIVAL, ACCORD-  
ING TO THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SUPPORT FOR SPANISH  
YOUTH ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 MADRID 07501 01 OF 02 031736Z

2. DURING A VISIT BY EMBOFF TO THE CULTURE MINISTRY'S  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS, TO FOLLOW UP ON  
USYC DELEGATION'S DISCUSSIONS ABOUT FUTURE EXCHANGES,  
THE MINISTRY OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR DEALING WITH  
SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE HAVANA FESTIVAL (SUBDIRECTOR  
RAMON RODRIGUEZ TONSA) TOOK GREAT PAINS TO EXPLAIN AND

JUSTIFY HIS OFFICE'S APPROACH TO THE JULY GATHERING.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, RODRIGUEZ SHOWED EMBOFF THE REQUESTS FOR TRAVEL FUNDING THAT HIS OFFICE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE VARIOUS YOUTH GROUPS WHICH MADE UP THE SPANISH COMMITTEE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE HAVANA FESTIVAL. THESE REQUESTS INCLUDED:

--6 OR 7 APPLICATIONS FROM A VARIETY OF FAR-LEFT GROUPS (AT LEAST ONE OF WHICH IS VISCERALLY ANTI-SOVIET AND, ACCORDING TO RODRIGUEZ, JUST WANTS TO GO ALONG TO KEEP THE POT BOILING) FOR FUNDING OF A TOTAL OF ABOUT 50 PARTICIPANTS;

--APPLICATIONS FROM THE YOUNG COMMUNISTS(LINKED TO THE PCE) AND YOUNG SOCIALISTS (PSOE) FOR FUNDING 35 PARTICIPANTS EACH;

--AND APPLICATIONS FROM TWO CENTER-LEFT GROUPINGS, NEITHER OF WHICH IS LINKED TO THE GOVERNING UCD, FOR FUNDING OF ABOUT 5 PARTICIPANTS EACH.

UCD'S YOUTH ORGANIZATION HAD NOT YET FIRMLY DECIDED WHETHER IT WOULD PARTICIPATE, RODRIGUEZ SAID, AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FROM THE OTHER GROUPS NUMBERED ABOUT 150.  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MADRID 07501 01 OF 02 031736Z

4. NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN IN THE CULTURE MINISTRY ON WHETHER OR NOT TO PROVIDE THE REQUESTED FUNDING, RODRIGUEZ CONTINUED, BUT HIS OFFICE WAS GOING TO RECOMMEND THAT THE MINISTRY ACCEDE TO THE YOUTH GROUPS' REQUESTS. RODRIGUEZ JUSTIFIED THIS RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS:

-- FIRST OF ALL, HAVANA WAS TAKING PAINS TO MAKE THIS A LESS SECTARIAN GATHERING THAN HAD BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST, RODRIGUEZ SAID WITH LITTLE APPARENT CONVICTION;

-- IF THE GOVT DID NOT FUND THE GROUPS' TRAVEL, IT WAS PROBABLE THAT ONLY THE YOUNG COMMUNISTS AND YOUNG SOCIALISTS WOULD GO, BECAUSE THE OTHER GROUPS SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO PAY THEIR OWN WAY. THIS WOULD ROB THE DELEGATION OF NEEDED BALANCE, AND IN PARTICULAR IT WOULD MEAN THAT THOSE GROUPS LIKELY TO BE MOST OBJECTIVE OR CRITICAL WOULD NOT BE ALONG TO "KEEP THE REST OF THEM HONEST;"

-- FINALLY, IT WAS BETTER TO HAVE ANY CONTRETEMPS TAKE

PLACE IN HAVANA, BETWEEN CUBANS AND THE SPANISH DELEGATION, RATHER THAN UNITE THE PRO-FESTIVAL GROUPS AGAINST THE GOS HERE IN MADRID BECAUSE THE GOVT WOULD NOT FINANCE THEIR TRIP. (RODRIGUEZ THOUGHT SUCH CONTRETEMPS WERE LIKELY, SINCE, HE SAID, THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN MADRID ALREADY HAD INSISTED TO YOUNG SOCIALIST CHIEF JUAN ANTONIO BARRAGAN THAT IT WANTED A "DOSSSER" ON EVERY PROSPECTIVE SPANISH PARTICIPANT, SOMETHING

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PAGE 01 MADRID 07501 02 OF 02 031739Z  
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R 031715Z JUL 78  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MADRID 07501

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

WHICH HAD IRRITATED BARRAGAN NO END, SAID RODRIGUEZ.)

5. IF THE FUNDING WERE PROVIDED, RODRIGUEZ CONTINUED WITHOUT BATTLING AN EYE, A SMALL GROUP WOULD TRAVEL TO HAVANA BY PLANE, BUT MOST OF THE DELEGATES WOULD PICK UP A SOVIET SHIP CARRYING THE SOVIET DELEGATION IN BARCELONA AND TRAVEL TO (AND APPARENTLY FROM) HAVANA BY THAT MEANS, AS IT WAS CHEAPER, HE QUICKLY ADDED. AT THIS POINT ANOTHER CULTURE MINISTRY OFFICIAL INTERJECTED

THAT IT MIGHT APPEAR THAT THE GOS, IF IT DECIDED TO FUND  
THE GROUP'S TRAVEL, WAS SANCTIONING THE GATHERING.  
RODRIGUEZ QUICKLY RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS NOT AT ALL  
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PAGE 02 MADRID 07501 02 OF 02 031739Z

THE CASE. HIS OFFICE, HE SAID, VIEWED PARTICIPATION  
IN THE FESTIVAL JUST AS IT DID ANY OTHER LEGITIMATE  
SPANISH YOUTH ACTIVITY, AND FUNDING OF THE GROUP'S  
PARTICIPATION WOULD IN NO WAY IMPLY GOS APPROVAL OF THE  
POLITICS OF THE FESTIVAL. IN THIS REGARD, RODRIGUEZ  
SAID THE MINISTRY HAD ONLY RECENTLY APPROVED A REQUEST  
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BY THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS FOR FUNDING FOR A SYSTEMATIC  
EXCHANGE BETWEEN THEM AND THE SOVIET KOMSOMOLS. (COMMENT:  
YOUNG SOCIALISTS LEADER JUAN ANTONIO BARRAGAN, WHO  
RETURNED QUITE SOBERED FROM HIS LATE 1977 VISIT TO MOSCOW,  
TOLD EMBOFF SOME TIME AGO THAT SUCH AN EXCHANGE WOULD  
SOON BE INSTITUTIONALIZED.) EATON

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## Message Attributes

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